

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE
LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

February 26, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gooch called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in the conference room of the Lumpkin County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Stephen Gooch, John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson, Clarence Stowers and Clarence Grindle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

***Motion:** Commissioner Stowers made a motion to amend the agenda to include the ARC Interconnect Grant, the Dawson/Lumpkin County Line Survey, and Distilled Spirits and to then accept the agenda as amended. This motion was seconded by Clarence Grindle and approved by all district commissioners. Motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Commissioners Letter to EPD - City of Dahlonega draft Surface Water Withdrawal Permit

Chairman Gooch spoke about the Technical Meeting he and Commissioner Hutcheson attended Friday, February 23rd in Atlanta. The Chairman said that if the agreement reached Friday holds the board would have to pass a storm water run-off ordinance. There will have to be a buffer agreement that will be measured from the intake. One mile upstream from the intake the buffer would be 100 feet. Above one mile there would be a 50-foot buffer. However, there would be a 10% EIA within 150 feet of the stream. Commissioner Hutcheson explained that they tried very hard to get the critical area to a ½ mile but were unsuccessful.

As part of this agreement the County would have to monitor the creeks and educate the public. The agreement would apply to our reservoir and Dawson County's reservoir although the unresolved issue is how a county can get another county or city to cooperate in this matter. If the agreement is approved by the EPD it will then go to the DNR Board.

Chairman Gooch passed out a draft of his comments concerning the withdrawal permit letter. There was discussion as to whether a specific amount of increased allocation from the present should be included in the letter response to the EPD Special Conditions. County Attorney Horne said that there is nothing in the regulations and nothing in the law that justifies what the EPD is putting in the Special Conditions. However, the point today is to get on record in a general way that the county objects to the special conditions. That way, if there is need in the future to object more in depth then it is on record.

The County Attorney will e-mail his proposed final product to them to which the board will e-mail approval or comments.

Enotah Judicial Circuit - Third Judgeship

***Motion:** Commissioner Raber moved to approve pursuit of the third judgeship with supplements for all the judges. Clarence Stowers seconded the motion, which was approved by all district commissioners. Motion carried.*

Commissioner Stowers wants it stated in the minutes that the board does not accept the manner in which they are being forced to accept payment of supplements but they feel they have no other choice but to approve this. However, they do recognize the need for more judges and want to see cases moved through the court more quickly.

COMMENTS

ARC Grant

Work that had already been done will not be included in the County's match on this grant. This means the Water & Sewerage Authority will not be reimbursed the \$10,000.00 spent on engineering fees. Water & Sewerage Authority Director Owens will inform the board how much money the County will need to proceed prior to the board making a decision whether to go forward or to withdraw from this project.

During discussion it was pointed out that David Sargent, GMRDC Economic & Community Development Director, said that we would be able to use the prior work. Director Owens said that this 0.6-mile project would be beneficial to the county even if it means using part of the \$2,000,000.00 in SPLOST funds allocated to the Water & Sewerage Authority.

County Line Survey

The County Manager commented on how professional the surveyor was who did this survey. The County Attorney said that this survey reasonably matches the original and that the board should accept it. This survey solves the problem of what county should be taxing these properties but it may create a problem with where some children are attending school. The matter will have to be settled by the Boards of Education. The Dawson County board will meet until March 1st. We have not yet heard from them on this survey.

Distilled Spirits

There was discussion about the purpose of the distilled spirits vote taken on this at the last Regular Meeting. It is understood that the vote can stand as taken and it will not trigger the need for a special election. A resolution will be required to get this on the ballot for the next scheduled election but that should not occur until nearer the scheduled election.

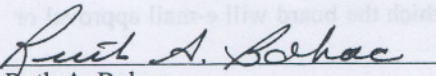
ADJOURN

***Motion:** At 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Hutcheson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by John Raber. Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson, Stowers and Grindle approved the motion. Motion carried.*

3-15-2007
Date


Stephen W. Gooch, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Ruth A. Bohac
Clerk, Lumpkin County